THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Instructions already exist for punctual running of trains, provision of various passenger amenities according to prescribed standards in trains and at stations and their proper upkeep by intensive chasing and round-the-clock monitoring.

Programme for track renewal railways

697. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways have programmed 2850 kms. for track renewal during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the thrust areas where the renewal will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The thrust area is liquidation of arrears of over due renewals particularly on high density/high speed routes, along with upgradation of their track structure.

Emergency quota seats/berths in different trains

698. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the modus operendi of releasing emergency quota seats/berths in different trains;

(b) what is the nature of priority of the VIPs recommending for confirmation of wait-listed tickets;

(c) whether the recommendation of the MPs are given any priority; and

(d) the number of seats/berths which were released from the emergency quota in the month of June 1992 and the number of seats/berths which were confirmed on the recommendations of MPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) A limited number of berths/seats has been earmarked as emergency quota to meet the urgent travel requirements of high official requisition holders, Ministers, VIPs and other emergent demands. Requests received from Members of Parliament and various other quarters for release of berths/seats out of Emergency Quota are given due priority taking into account factors like status of the passenger travelling, nature of urgency like Government duty, bereavement, sickness, etc.

(d) As a large number of such requests is received and dealt with on day-to-day basis, break-up of the requests received from various sources is not maintained.

Electrification of rail routes in Andhra Pradesh

699. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the various proposals for electrification of rail routes in Andhra Pradesh in the Eighth Plan;

(b) the details of electrification work currently underway in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the funds proposed to be earmarked in Eighth Plan for railway electrification in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Railways Programme for electrification during the Eighth Five Year Plan period has not so far been finalised. Currently electrification of the following sections falling in the State of Andhra Pradesh is in progress:

(i) Bibinagar-Secunderabad-Sanatnagar (as a part of Kazipet-Sanatnagar section)	45 RKMs
(ii) Renigunta-Tsakibanda (as a part of Renigunta Guntakal-Hospet section)	328 RKMs
(iii) Vijayawada-Vishakapatnam	366 RKMs
TOTAL	739 RKMs

Funds to the extent of Rs. 34.12 crores have been allotted for these projects during the current financial year.

रेलवे स्टेशन-प्लेटफार्मों पर ठेकेदार

700. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा :** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि रेलवे स्टेशन-प्लेटफ़ार्मों पर ठेकेदार नियमों के अनुरूप कार्य नहीं कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) उन ठेकेदारों की क्षेत्रवार संख्या कितनी है, जिनके विरुद्ध कार्यवाही की गई है तथा उन ठेकेदारों की संख्या कितनी है जिनके ठेके रद्द कर दिए गए हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार का केवल बेरोजगार व्यक्तियों को ही ठेके देने का विचार है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन) : (क) और (ख) सामान्य ठेकेदार करार की शर्तों के अनुसार कार्य करते हैं। दोषी ठेकेदारों के खिलाफ उचित कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(ग) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(घ) जी नहीं।

Konkan Railway project

701. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Konkan Railway project is progressing satisfactorily;

(b) what are the targets sets for completion under different sections and achievement made so far;

(c) whether the project is facing problem from the environmentalists; and

(d) if so, Government's stand on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Target for Phase I:

Roha-Dasgaon 47 Km—October 1992

Mangalore-Udupi 70 Km-October 1992

and Dasgaon-Udupi 643 Km—Depends on availability of resources in coming years.

(c) Yes, Sir. In Goa sector.

(d) Necessary measures have been taken to prepare an environmental impact assessment to evolve environmental management plan to mitigate adverse impact and protect environment.

Koderma-Hazaribagh rail link

702. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Railway Minister, while presenting the interim Railway budget in March, 1991 had mentioned that the Koderma-Hazaribagh Railway link would be taken up for construction soon;

(b) whether the project has since been shelved; and